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code

For NPS use only

received JAN | 1 1986 date entered FEB | 9 1986

### **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

### **National Register of Historic Places Inventory**—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## Name

LOGIA ADELPHIA historic

LOGIA ADELPHIA and/or common

#### Location 2,

street & number SOL STREET NO. 64 E, BLOCK 357 LOT 8 not for publication

MAYAGUEZ city, town

vicinity of

county

MAYAGUEZ

PUERTO RICO state

PR 72 code

#### Classification 3.

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	public	_X_ occupied	agriculture	museum
<u>x</u> building(s)	_x_ private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	_X_ yes: restricted	government	scientific
-	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	N/A	no	military	_X_ other: LODGE

#### **Owner of Property** 4.

GRAN LOGIA SOBERANA DE PUERTO RICO name

street & number Eox 995

city, town

city, town Mayaguez	icinity of	state PUERTO RICO
5. Location of Legal Des	cription	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. REGISTRO DE 1 (RECORDER'S (		DEPARTAMENTO DE HACIENDA
street & number GOVERNMENT BUILDING, BA	ARRIO MIRADERO	
city, town MAYAGUEZ,		state PUERTO RICO
6. Representation in Exi	sting Surve	eys
SURVEY AND PLANNING title PROJECT OF MAYAGUEZ	has this property been	determined eligible?yesX_no
date JULY, 1984	fe	deral X state county local
depository for survey records STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATION (	DFFICE
city town SAN JUAN,		state PUERTO RICO

# 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X. ₋ original site	
X_ good	ruins	$\underline{X}$ altered	moved date	
j <del>an f</del> air	unexposed			

#### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

In 1912 the Logia Adelphia, the oldest Freemasonry chapter in the city of Mayaguez, inagurated a new building. Designed by Sabas Honoré, perhaps the most prominent local architect of the time, the new structure became a symbol of the Freemasonry movement in the city.

Located in the middle of the lot block at Sol Street, the building's facade is the main and most relevant feature of the two story reinforced concrete building. The East and West facades, very difficult to appreciate from the street, are treated as service blank wall planes, with plain window openings. The ground floor, is dedicated mainly to meeting rooms, while the upper floor is used for administrative offices. Access to the structure is limited to Masons only.

The street, or North facade, is rich and elegant. It is horizontally divided into three parts: an ornamented base or podium, and an entablature. The continous two floors dented moulding, of exaggerated proportion, divides the building in approximately two equal sections horizontally, which expresses the two stories clearly.

Three vertical bays are defined by four elements, flat and ornamented at the ends and dented and protuding in the center bay. A narrow entrance portico is framed by the latter, together with a frieze with the Logia's name, and a pediment with the Freemason's symbol, both in low-relief. Two corinthian, fluted columns which rest on low rectangular, upright pedestals, frame the arched entrance door, ornamented by a dented moulding which adds importance to it. Three narrow and arched louvered wood doors, with concrete mouldings and slight ornamentation appear above. Various steps join the building's ground level with the street.

The side bays exhibit four sets of louvered wood doors each, two on each level. The doors on the **second** level have an arched transom. Very richly decorated iron railings adorn each. Elaborate concrete mouldings of Spanish or Moorish influence define the openings. The frieze is enriched by a continuous medallion motif, and crowned with a balustrade. Two concrete balustrades were later added at the ground level, located at either entrance side. An iron grilled entrance gate of no particular value was placed between them. The combination and juxtaposition of these elements produces a facade which is full of richness and movement culminating in the central bay where a very powerful and monumental entrance is the result. The bas relief treatment given all over is unique to the Island. The great ornamentation is balanced, through the application of the classical rules of proportion on the facade.

Presently the building is still used by the local Freemansons chapter. Its inside is void of any possibility of recognition of the original design, but the facade remains one of the best ever designed and executed in the Island.

### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications		science sculpture X. social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dates	1912	Builder/Architect Sabas Honoré	

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Logia Adelphia constitutes an important example of turn-of-thecentury architecture in Puerto Rico, when diverse influences had been already assimilated and began to be transplanted into a built reality. Its significance transcends the architectural value because it relates to socio-historical concerns in the Island as well.

Architectural elements of different time periods and cultures were combined by the architect to create a rich design. The man responsible for it, Sabas Honoré, native "mayaguezano" explored the classical, Spanish and Moorish vocabularies to produce a work with a clear identity of its own. Given the man's stature, the fact that the Logia is one of Honoré's few remaining buildings in Mayaguez, underlines its merits for nomination.

The building's history is tied to the history of Freemansonry in Mayaguez and Latin America. Freemasonry has always been related to the pro-independence, patriotic movements, having counted among its followers some of the best known leaders, like pro-independence anti-slavery figure, Dr. Ramón Emeterio Betances.

During the Spanish rule, the Freemansons Lodges promoted freedom of thought and expression, protecting liberals from Church and State persecution. Mayaguez (through the Logia Adelphia) was , and still is a main stronghold of Freemasonry in Puerto Rico.

The Logia Adelphia's facade, as it stands today, claims both, and architectural recognition from professionals who acknowledge its craftsmanship and aesthetic achievements, as well as its role within the community and the history of Mayazuez and Puerto Rico.

The Logia Adelphia building, thus, pays tribute to the mind of its master-builder, able Sabas Honore, but also, and collectively, to freedom of thought and expression- to liberty.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Sabas Honoré and his father Victor Honoré were well-known architects in Mayaguez, their hometown. Many of their original plans are preserved in the city's archives. Among Sabas' best buildings are: the Bechara Residence and the González Residence, both in Mayaguez. Sabas Honoré studied in Spain; his descendants still live in Mayaguez.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cruz Monclova. <u>Historia de Puerto Rico en el Siglo XIX.</u> Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, University Press, 1979. (V edition) Fernández García, Eugenio. <u>The Book of Porto Rico</u>. San Juan, Puerto Rico: El Libro Azul Publishing Co., 1923.

## **10. Geographical Data**

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### United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

### National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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